



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **Federal Report Highlights North Dakota's Achievements in Public Health Emergency Preparedness**

BISMARCK, N.D. – A report released today by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) highlights North Dakota's achievements in public health emergency preparedness, according to Tim Wiedrich, chief of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Section of the North Dakota Department of Health.

The federal report, entitled "Public Health Preparedness: Mobilizing State by State," gives North Dakota credit for three main activities: (1) ability to detect and investigate diseases; (2) ability to conduct laboratory testing for biological and chemical threats; and (3) development and testing of response plans. In addition, the report indicates that North Dakota has accomplished 24 of 24 goals selected by the CDC. An additional two goals were not applicable to North Dakota.

"This report highlights the fact that North Dakota has made it a priority to strengthen our ability to respond to public health emergencies," said Governor John Hoeven. "An extensive amount of work has been done on both the state and local levels and with the private health-care sector, and this report gives credit to that important work. I appreciate the efforts that everyone has made and know we all remain committed to continuing to build our emergency preparedness."

The preparedness report looked at activities funded by the CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant, which helps state, local, territorial and tribal public health departments improve their ability to respond to emergencies.

"While we are pleased to be recognized by the CDC for our accomplishments, we are committed to continue working to enhance our public health emergency response capabilities," Wiedrich said. "Whether we are faced with a tornado, an influenza pandemic or a chemical spill, public health's ability to respond will be key to helping keep North Dakotans safe. This is a responsibility public health officials across the state take very seriously."

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A copy of the CDC report can be found at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/publications/feb08phprep>.

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